

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 129

March 28, 2011

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires voters to declare a statewide political party affiliation in order to vote in a primary election. The party affiliation declared by the voter shall be added to the voter's permanent registration record. Decreases the required number of signatures a petition must have for statewide political party recognition, from two and one-half percent to one percent of the total number of votes cast for gubernatorial candidates in the most recent election. Voters registering prior to July 1, 2011, would declare their party affiliation at the next primary election in which the voter chooses to vote or at least five days prior to a primary election. Party affiliation may also be changed no less than five days before an election.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$52,600/One-Time

Assumptions:

- Party affiliation will be required to be added to the statewide voter registration database at a cost of \$16,600. This estimate is based on approximately 25 hours of programming and requires eight applications/programs/interfaces at a cost of \$83 per hour to update the database (25 hours x 8 x \$83). This programming will be performed by the Office of Information Resources.
- According to the Coordinator of Elections' office, new voter registration applications will be required to include party affiliation at a cost of \$36,000. This estimate assumes that the existing supply of voter registration applications will not be used but new forms will be required on July 1, 2011.
- Total one-time increase in state expenditures of \$52,600 for programming (\$16,600) and new voter registration applications (\$36,000).

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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